

November 17, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Via email only: [Vaishalee.Yeldani@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:Vaishalee.Yeldani@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)  
And [Madylin.Reno@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:Madylin.Reno@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham  
Ranking Member  
Committee of the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Via email only: [Ryan.Giles@judiciary-rep.senate.gov](mailto:Ryan.Giles@judiciary-rep.senate.gov)

Dear Senators:

We have been employed as career prosecutors with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, State of California, for 27 years. We write to express our strong support for Judge Serena Murillo to serve as United States District Court Judge for the Central District of California.

We have worked as prosecutors in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office since November of 1997 and were trained in the same hiring class as Judge Murillo. Since that time, we have worked in the courtroom with Judge Murillo as fellow prosecutors, collaborated with Judge Murillo on trial strategy in serious and violent felonies, observed her manage the stresses and workload of handling a large daily volume of cases in court, sought her opinion on a multitude of complex legal issues, observed her in court as a Superior Court judge, and have also come to know her in a personal capacity. These direct experiences make us uniquely qualified to unequivocally state that Judge Murillo possesses the qualities that make her extremely well qualified to serve as a District Court Judge—tough on serious and violent crimes, compassionate towards victims, even-tempered and fair to all litigants, highly intelligent, and extremely hardworking.

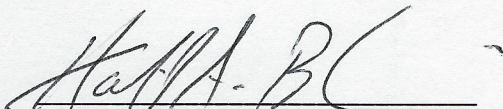
In her career as a prosecutor, Judge Murillo worked in multiple assignments where she prosecuted all types of criminal offenders. Having worked side-by-side with her in a domestic violence court, Mr. Balian had the pleasure of working with and learning from Judge Murillo. Daily, she balanced a large volume of cases on her calendar, negotiated and interacted with dozens of defense attorneys, and handled numerous pre-trial motions, while at the same time preparing for and conducting domestic violence jury trials after the morning calendar was completed. Judge Murillo successfully navigated these numerous and complicated tasks with ease, while always treating those around her with compassion and respect. Most importantly, while this was an extremely arduous and stressful assignment, Judge Murillo consistently set aside time to interact with her domestic violence victims. She approached them with a level of compassion and understanding that left an indelible impression on those around her. She approached all victims with a unique understanding of their perspective, and always went out of her way to make them feel heard and understood. She has extensive experience prosecuting a wide variety of violent and serious felonies, and in each case, she worked zealously to ensure public safety while simultaneously upholding the constitutional rights of the defendants she prosecuted.

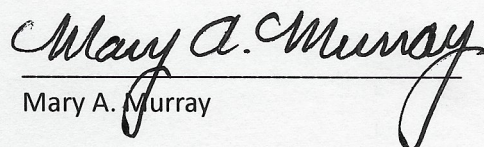
Judge Murillo also enjoys a strong reputation amongst our colleagues for having a keen legal mind and a unique ability to analyze complex issues. Judge Murillo spent five years at the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office assigned to the Appellate Division. In that assignment, she displayed excellent legal research and analytical skills. Mr. Balian, as a prosecutor in the Major Crimes Division, and Ms. Murray, as a prosecutor in the Crimes Against Peace Officers Division, routinely consulted with Judge Murillo regarding difficult legal issues. Her ability to analyze complex problems and explain them in a straightforward manner is exceptional.

Having observed Judge Murillo in court as a judicial officer after she left the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office, it is no surprise that Judge Murillo brings the same level of compassion, legal knowledge, and concern for public safety to her role as a bench officer in the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Among our colleagues and the defense bar, she enjoys a strong reputation for being smart, experienced, fair, and balanced. We have observed that litigants appearing before her always feel that they are fully heard before Judge Murillo issues her rulings. This leaves litigants appearing before her with the knowledge that the justice system is open and accessible to all.

As both a prosecutor and a Superior Court Judge, Judge Murillo has served Los Angeles County and its community with integrity, balance, and compassion throughout her entire career. If confirmed as a District Court Judge, we are confident she will serve with those same qualities, and we enthusiastically support her nomination.

Sincerely,

  
Habib A. Balian

  
Mary A. Murray